

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 EB-11 AID-20 /208 W
----- 030069

O R 290926Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BANKGOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3735

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN: 3735 VICE 3725

WEE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 060451

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, EMBASSY RAISED ARTICLE I
VOTING QUESTION MAR 27 WITH DFA SECY ROMULO'S
SPECIAL ASST. EMBASSY PROVIDED TALKING POINTS
BASED ON REFTEL AND ALSO INCLUDED SUGGESTION THAT WORDING
OF ARTICLE I HAD VERY DIRECT RELAVANCE TO MUSLIM
REBELES IN THE SOUTH , I.E. PROVIDING BELLIGERENT RIGHTS.
WE ARE TOLD THAT TALKING POINTS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL
WITH GEN. ROMULO MAR 28 WHO NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO UPHOLD
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EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HE HAD SIGNED OFF ON COVERING

THIS ISSUE. IN CONVEYING THIS INFORMATION TO EMBASSY, SPECIAL ASST. MADE CLEAR THAT DECISION BASED ON GOP'S DESIRE TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP OF ARABS. IN HOPES OF REVERSING DECISION, AMB RAISED WITH UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES.

2. DESIRE TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP OF ARABS HAS BECOME BASIC PILLAR OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY. GOP BELIEVES THAT IT HAS PAID OFF WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING ARAB UNDERSTANDING OF GOP HANDLING OF MUSLIM REBELLION IN THE SOUTH. WITH MORE REASON, GOP BELIEVES THAT ARDUOUS WOOING HAS ALSO PAID OFF WITH RESPECT TO ASSURING PHILS OF ADEQUATE OIL SUPPLY. WE EXPECT THAT CONCERN WITH ARAB POINT OF VIEW WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT AND DETERMINING ELEMENT OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. LESS IMPORTANT BUT NEVERTHELESS INFLUENTIAL TO GOP IS VOTING BEHAVIOR OF ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT MENTION IT TO GOP, WE NOTED THAT THAILAND AND INDONESIA BOTH VOTED IN FAVOR OF ARTICLE I AS DRAFTED (AND WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS IN FACT FAIRLY STRONG SENTIMENT IN DFA FOR SIMILAR VOTE). CHANGING VOTE FROM ABSTENTION TO NEGATIVE ONE WOULD THEREFORE CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR GOP WITH ITS ASEAN PARTNERS.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN CHANGE POSITION BY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS. WE ACCORDINGLY CONCLUDE THAT GOP LIKELY ABSTAIN ON ARTICLE I VOTE AND THAT CONCERNS WITH ARABS AND ASEAN WILL PRECLUDE SWITCH IN GOP VOTE.

SULLIVAN

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